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Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Council

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and has the honour to refer to his note C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3 dated 30 July 2009, which informed the States parties to the Single Convention that the Economic and Social Council had decided to initiate a consultation process on the proposal to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the said Convention.

The Government of Mexico respects and supports the preservation and protection of indigenous peoples' traditional customs and practices. In keeping with its Constitution, it promotes a comprehensive policy of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, at both the domestic and the international level. At the same time, the Government of Mexico considers that the respect and protection owed to the customs and practices of indigenous peoples must be compatible with the need to ensure that the cultivation of coca leaf does not lead to its illicit use, and deems it vital to consider alternative approaches to the eradication of cocaine production.

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 is an instrument of universal scope, one of whose objectives is the protection of human health. Mexico is convinced that only by maintaining the integrity of the Convention will its objectives be met.

In this regard, I wish to inform you, for the purposes envisaged in the said Convention, that the Government of Mexico, having considered the aforementioned proposed amendments, deems it inadvisable to initiate a process to amend the Single Convention of 1961.